

Maurice Maeterlinck

intrinsically unfit for the noise and publicity and loquacity of the Courts—an almost savage shyness and a proud passion for solitary meditation. The story has often been told in England of the meetings of two taciturn celebrities, Carlyle the Historian and Tennyson the Poet Laureate. The pair would sit opposite each other for hours together, never once opening their lips except to remove or replace their lighted pipes. Their looks alone exchanged the secret of their inward thoughts. On parting, their voices would be heard for the first time :

“What a delightful evening!” the first would say.

“Let us have another soon!” would reply the other.

Maeterlinck has always been akin to Carlyle and Tennyson in virtue of the dumbness of his eloquence. When, after stripping off for ever the odious gown,